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culture, a pursuit he steadily continued for nearly seventy years. After studying medicine at Yale College and in Philadelphia, and after some years of practice in Connecticut, he moved to Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his long life. While busily following his calling of physician, he found time for a great deal of other work. During a quarter of a century, he was professor of medicine. In 1848, he worked up the natural history of Ohio, as part of the geological survey of that State. Not the least valuable portion was an account of the fishes, which was published, with plates, in the "Journal of the Boston Society of Natural History," and which still stands as a work of authority. He wrote also valuable papers on sexualism among the naiades. The growing of fruit he pursued during his whole life, and was very successful, especially in producing new varieties of cherries. It is scarcely necessary to add that in this respect he was a public benefactor.

Such a man is always interesting. The peculiarities which make him what he is, and the native energy and originality which have held him up, give a certain freshness of character rarely found among men of strictly academic training.

#### ELIAS MAGNUS FRIES.

ELIAS MAGNUS FRIES died at Upsal on February 8, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, five months after the celebration, in which he was able to take some part, of the four hundredth anniversary of the foundation of that University, and a month after the hundredth anniversary of the death of Linnæus. Born, as was Linnæus, in Smoland, a southern province of Sweden, and like him called in middle age to the renowned Scandinavian University, he might be regarded as the most distinguished of Linnæus's successors, except for the fact that he did not occupy the chair of Linnæus; for when, more than forty years ago, Fries, then Demonstrator of Botany at Lund, was called to Upsal, Wahlenberg was in the botanical chair, and Fries was made professor of Practical Economy. His son, however, by the retirement of Areschoug, is now the botanical professor.

Fries's earliest work, the first part of his *Novitiæ*, appeared in the year 1814, when the author was only twenty years old. His last of any moment, a new edition of his *Hymenomycetes Europæi*, was published on his eighty-first birthday, Aug. 15, 1874. Most of the sixty intervening years are marked by some publication from his busy and careful hand. His work was wholly in systematic botany, and of

the highest character of its kind. In phænogamous botany, it related chiefly to the Scandinavian flora, in which for critical judgment he had no superior; in Mycology, of which he was the reformator, and to a good degree in Lichenology, he had no rival except as regards microscopical research. The modern microscope did not exist when he began his work, and, while showing how much can be done without it, he may too long have underrated its value. But he lived to see it confirm many conclusions which his insight foresaw, and solve riddles which he had pondered, but was unable to divine. He was the prince, Nestor, and last survivor of an excellent school of systematic botanists, whose teachers were taught by Linnæus or his contemporaries.

#### URBAIN-JEAN-JOSEPH LEVERRIER.

URBAIN-JEAN-JOSEPH LEVERRIER was born at St. Lô, in the department of the Manche, on March 11th, 1811. As a boy, he studied at the colleges of St. Lô at Caen, and in Paris at the College of Louis le Grand. In 1831, he entered the École Polytechnique, where he graduated with such distinction that he was allowed to choose which branch of the public service he would enter. Obtaining a position in the tobacco bureau, he devoted his leisure to chemistry, and published, as his first contribution to science, two papers on the combinations of phosphorus with hydrogen and oxygen. His natural tastes, however, were in the direction of the mathematics, and soon after, receiving a minor appointment in the École Polytechnique, he was enabled to devote his entire energies to his favorite science. At the instigation of Arago, he undertook the examination of the mutual disturbances of the planets, a subject to which he devoted a large portion of his life. A complete discussion of the motion of a single planet is a work of which any astronomer might be proud, but the determination of the motions, and the formation of tables for computing the positions of all the planets is a work of such magnitude that it would seem beyond the powers of a single individual. Yet LeVerrier not only boldly undertook this problem, but carried it to a successful termination, and built himself a lasting monument in the superb volumes of the "Paris Observatory," in which these researches are published.

The discovery of Neptune, by which LeVerrier is best known to the public, enters as a small portion of this great work. A study of the discordance in the motion of the planet Uranus from its path, as given by theory, led him to suspect the existence of an outer planet, producing the disturbance by its attraction. An investigation of the mass